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Sweden beats Denmark, strengthens semifinal claim

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Sweden strengthened their bid for a place in the European Championship semifinals when they beat Denmark 1-0 to lead Group One Sunday. Tomas Brodin netted the winner in the 59th minute when he stabbed home a cross from hard-running Martin Dahlin. The triumph gave hosts Sweden, who drew 1-1 with France in their opening match, three points from two games and lifted them one point clear of France and England, who fought out a goalless draw in Malmö earlier. Denmark's Kim Christofte crashed a free-kick against the post two minutes before the interval. But Sweden were the more dangerous attacking side and deserved victory. In the earlier match, England and France were unable to muster a single goal in a 0-0 tie, despite Stuart Pearce rattling the crossbar eight minutes before the finish. Pearce drove a 25-yard shot against the bar from a free kick but England remained scoreless after 180 minutes of soccer in the ninth championships. A crowd of 26,535 saw a dull, lifeless first half but a lively game after the break with chances at both ends.

Israelis shell Lebanese villages

SIDON (AP) — Israeli gunners shelled villages in South Lebanon for two hours Sunday, wounding two civilians, police reported. The barrage by guns inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" started at 9:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) and hit wooded hillsides around the villages of Jbaa, Jarjou, Arah Saleem and Milta, police said. A spokesman said the two civilians were hit when a shell exploded on a road on Jbaa's eastern edge. Resistance groups have bases all over the area. But they did not retaliate, police said. At the peak of the bombardment, two shells a minute were exploding in the pine woods, police said. The firing stopped around 11:30 a.m. (0930 GMT). Shelling by both sides has become a near-daily ritual in South Lebanon, a flashpoint for 20 years, since May 19. That was the start of the current spiral of fighting between resistance groups and the Israeli-backed by their militia allies, of the South Lebanon Army in the zone. Sunday's casualties raised the overall toll from ground and air assaults to 29 killed and 73 wounded since May 19.

Two killed in shootout in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — An expelled police academy student and his father, a retired police brigadier, were killed on Sunday during a three-hour shootout with security forces, an Interior Ministry statement said. The statement said a police force raided the home of Farouk Hassan in the suburb of Helwan. He was armed with a machinegun and was forcing it to retaliate. Three policemen were slightly wounded in the exchange. It said Mr. Hassan and his father were wanted on charges of extortion and illegal arms dealing. The father was shot dead as he tried to escape a fire in their flat caused by a gas leak. Security sources said two police officers and Mr. Hassan's mother were also killed but the ministry statement made no mention of other casualties. Police, the statement said, found 11 pistols and automatic rifles in the flat, and 1,360 empty shells fired during the shootout.

Turkey to pardon repentant guerrillas

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will pardon Kurdish separatist guerrillas who renounce violence, Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin said on Sunday. "We are going to enact a new law. The state will pardon all those who want to escape from this quagmire and return to the light," he told a rally in the southeastern town of Mus. More than 3,800 people have been killed since the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) began fighting for an independent state in the southeast in 1984. Scores of people have also been killed in the conflict between the Turkish state and urban militants of Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left).

Bombings reported in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Authorities freed 172 Muslim fundamentalists Saturday from detention in the Sahara Desert, and two bombing attacks against police stations were reported. The liberation of the fundamentalists, who were transported to their homes by airplane and bus from the Sahel detention centre, leaves about 4,000 people still in custody, state radio reported. Friday night's two separate police stations in the eastern city of Constantine, the official APS news agency reported. No one was injured. The report did not specify the extent of damages. APS cited no suspects, but the bombings came amid a wave of attacks against police by hardcore Islamic fundamentalists.

Somalia to seek renewal of aid

ABU DHABI (R) — A Somali delegation will press for a renewal of an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) pledge of aid to war-torn Somalia when the OAU meets in Senegal next week, a member of the delegation said on Sunday. The 52 OAU members are to meet in Dakar for a week-long annual conference starting with preliminary talks on June 22. Last July the group passed a resolution promising aid to Somalia, racked by more than a year of civil war. Since then Nigeria, Sudan, Egypt and Zimbabwe have provided food or humanitarian assistance under the OAU resolution, Omer Arshad Ghalib told Reuters. "We are asking that the resolution be renewed or enhanced," Mr. Ghalib told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh.

3 killed in attack on ex-Soviet base

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian servicemen were killed in an all-night battle with Georgian nationalist guardsmen who demanded that their ex-Soviet army base hand over weapons and military equipment. A third soldier later died in hospital. Russia's Radio Mayak said on Sunday three soldiers, one woman and a six-year-old child were also injured in the attack on a tank regiment headquarters in the town of Gori. ITAR-TASS news agency said the nationalist guardsmen seized two hostages, including the mayor of Gori, to press their claim. They opened fire when the garrison commander bluntly refused to give in to their demands.

Earth Summit ends with a sense of progress but stress on funds

RIO DE JANEIRO (Agencies) — The Earth Summit ended Sunday after 12 days of often-bitter negotiations, with a consensus that some progress was made but much more money is needed. Many said the real impact of the conference cannot be gauged for months, maybe years. As most of the more than 100 presidents, prime ministers and kings who attended the summit beamed home, delegates approved documents to conference President Fernando Collor de Mello opened the final session at 10:15 a.m. local time (1315 GMT) and closed it three hours later.

"This indeed is a historic moment for humanity," said Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the driving force behind the summit. "It has indeed been a profound human experience from which none of us can emerge unchanged."

The conference, called to seek ways to help developing nations grow without harming the environment, was viewed as a significant first step towards addressing many of the environmental and economic ills plaguing the world.

World leaders, heartened by a

last-minute promise of Japanese environmental aid, ended the summit with formal pledges to change their ways and respect the planet.

Japan, claiming the role of environmental pace-setter, said on Saturday it would raise by 50 per cent its official development aid for environmental programmes.

The news brought encouragement at the end of the conference, which was billed as a bid to save the world from environmental disaster, but often seemed to show just how little the world's nations were prepared to deviate from entrenched positions.

U.S. President George Bush flew into Rio de Janeiro to sign a climate treaty to stop global warming. But he refused to join a second major treaty designed to save the world's wide range of plants and animals, saying it would hurt industry and its financing was unrealistic.

Southern nations felt unhappy with richer states' commitment to help them develop in an environmentally sound way. "We have been underprivileged for too long... time is not on our side," Botswana's President Quett Masire said.

The mood was summed up at

what was hailed as an unprecedented roundtable meeting of as many as 100 world leaders. "Expectations for this conference have not been fully met," Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif told them.

But the very sight of so many leaders at a United Nations conference, expressing concern about environmental damage, raised hopes of change.

"After the summit, the world will never be the same again. We have taken a giant step towards sustainable development and the creation of an ecological and social environment which is safe and clean," Mr. Sharif said.

Japan's announcement was made in a written speech by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who said Japan would expand environmental aid to between 900 billion and one trillion yen over five years.

At current rates, this converts to between \$7 billion and \$7.7 billion, the largest amount pledged by any nation at the conference.

During the conference, many heads of state or government spoke, including President Bush, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Chinese Premier Li Peng.

The conference produced a Rio declaration calling for changes in

the way the world deals with environment and development, and a huge blueprint for carrying this out called Agenda 21.

More than 150 nations also signed two treaties — a biodiversity accord to save plant and animal species, the other to combat global warming by limiting so-called greenhouse gas emissions.

The United States signed the climate treaty, but not the biodiversity convention, which it feared would harm its biotechnology industry.

The conference called for an international treaty to fight desertification and a global conference on over-fishing the high seas, and agreed on a set of loosely-worded principles designed to protect the world's forests.

Throughout the summit, various industrialised nations offered financial aid to help Third World development in an environmentally sound manner.

The World Wide Fund for Nature estimated the total new money pledged at the conference to be between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion a year for the next five years.

This fell far short of the \$70 billion U.N. organisers had said was necessary, but the conference itself was viewed by participants as a start.

Release of German hostages is imminent

BEIRUT (Agencies) — U.N. hostage troubleshooter Giandomenico Picco arrived in Beirut on Sunday amid reports that two German aid workers, Lebanon's last Western hostages, would probably be freed within hours. Pro-Iranian sources and diplomats in Beirut said they expected Thomas Kempner, 51, and Heinrich Stroebig, 51 — held captive for more than three years — to be freed either by Sunday night or Monday morning.

"We expect them (the Germans) to be freed today. If not, they will come out by Monday," one pro-Iranian source told Reuters.

Other fundamentalist sources said Mr. Picco, the U.N. special envoy involved in negotiations to free hostages in Lebanon, held talks in Beirut with a member of the Hamadi family, which is believed to be behind the abduction of Mr. Stroebig and Mr. Kempner (see page 2).

They said Mr. Picco, who helped win freedom for the last nine U.S. and British hostages last year, came by land from Syria. German television said Mr.

Picco left Frankfurt for Damascus on Saturday.

The Tehran Times said the two German hostages would be handed over to German officials in Damascus Monday.

The English-language daily, which is close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, has accurately predicted the release of several other Western captives over the last two years.

The newspaper quoted its Beirut correspondent as saying Saturday that the two Germans "are to be released within 48 hours and will be banded over to German officials in Damascus." He quoted unidentified "informed sources" as saying that "all hitches in the way of the release of the two German hostages have been removed and now they will be sent home."

Iran, which has influence with kidnap factions in Lebanon, has been playing the major role in negotiating the German's release.

The hostage issue has soured relations between Iran and Germany, its main trading partner.

Dirty election campaign upsets Israeli voters

ACRE (R) — Israeli voters say they are disenchanted with the campaign for elections on June 23 because they hear too much dirt and too little about policies.

"No one talks about what they are going to do. Everyone is talking about the past," said Leon Yenoun, 41, a resident of Acre.

"We want to know what they will do for us. How are they going to create jobs?" he told Reuters at a Labour Party rally.

Voters said they were acutely concerned about security and economic problems but all they heard on the nightly campaign advertisements on television was a litany of personal insults and accusations that rival parties had failed.

Mr. Yenoun, a construction technician, came to hear Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin speak on Thursday in Acre though he backs Labour's main rival, the Likud of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"People are apathetic this year. They are frustrated," Mr. Yenoun said. He called the campaign broadcasts a waste of

money. "They see this as a children's game."

In speeches to working-class audiences in northern Israel on Thursday, Mr. Rabin devoted considerable time to hasting Likud.

He accused the right-wing party of wasting billions of dollars on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, abandoning blue-collar towns, neglecting the rise in unemployment and missing every opportunity to advance peace.

Mr. Rabin promised he would make peace without endangering "security" and would wage war on unemployment, now at a 20-year high of 11.5 per cent. But he did not say how he would do it.

"He mostly put down the Likud," said Moti Cohen, 28, a hairdresser who came out to hear Mr. Rabin in Nahariya, a coastal town near the Lebanese border.

Esther Ashkenazi, a 65-year-old grandmother of 11 from Acre, said the candidates had offered few solutions to the problems of security, unemployment and immigrant absorption.

Libyan paper assails congress head's speech

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — A Libyan newspaper which had criticised Muammar Qadhafi's foreign policy took the head of the General People's Congress to task on Sunday for praising Arabs and Muslims in an opening speech.

"We are very astonished at the brother secretary of the General People's Congress's greetings to, and appreciation of, Arabs and Muslims, as if they were in the trench of Libya's defence," the Libyan news agency JANA quoted Al Jamahiriya as saying. In articles last week, Al Jamahiriya, organ of Libya's revolutionary committees, severely criticised Col. Qadhafi's pro-Arab policy at a time when Arabs declined to support Libya against U.N.-imposed sanctions backed by the West.

Al Jamahiriya said Saturday's speech by Abdel Razeq Al Sousse, a secretary-general of the General People's Congress, does not represent the views of the Libyan people and cannot be taken as their general position.

The congress is to decide the fate of the Libyan pair charged in the United States and Britain with planting the bomb that blew up in December 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Expected to last most of this week, the congress is the culmination of a series of grassroots meetings in Libya's parliamentary system. It convened Saturday in the Mediterranean town of Sirte, about 50 kilometres south-east of Tripoli.

In Saturday's opening session, Mr. Sousse charged that the United States, Britain and France "manufactured" the bombing charges as a pretext for "an act of aggression" against Libya. France wants to investigate four other Libyans in the 1989 bombing of a French aircraft over an African desert that killed 141 people.

Mr. Sousse said the Western countries were violating international law by trying to extradite the Lockerbie suspects. Libya's refusal to surrender the men brought U.N. air, arms and diplomatic sanctions against Libya starting April 15.

"Libyan law, like other laws, including the laws of the three countries, does not permit handing over its citizens or subjects to another state, because this is a matter pertaining to sovereignty," Mr. Sousse said in his inaugural speech.

Talabani seeks economic support from Europeans

ANKARA (Agencies) — A senior Iraqi Kurdish leader said Sunday he was hopeful for continued allied air support and now would seek European and Turkish help to bolster the Kurdish economy.

Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), told a news conference he would appeal to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament next week.

He said that besides moral and political support he would ask the European governments to help the newly elected Kurdish government run factories, rehabilitate Kurdish agriculture and pay the salaries of civil servants not paid for eight months because of the Iraqi blockade.

"We'll ask them to deal in a direct way with the Kurdish administration and to give financial and economic support," he added.

He said Turkey's economic support was also "vital" for the Kurds and that he had discussed possible Turkish purchases of Kurdish goods and exports through Turkey.

Mr. Talabani said he was hopeful there would be an extension of the mandate for the allied coalition force patrolling northern Iraq to deter a major military move by Baghdad to the Kurds.

Forty-eight warplanes from the United States, Britain and France, backed by support aircraft, were kept after a ground force helped the Kurds gain control of northern Iraq although their rebellion was crushed by Iraqi government forces. The mandate of the force expires on June 28.

"We are grateful for the Turkish government's recognition of the need to renew the mandate beyond the end of June, and attempt to obtain the required consent of the parliament," Mr. Talabani said.

Premier Suleyman Demirel, whose True Path Party and government-partner Social Democrats have a safe majority in parliament, assured Mr. Talabani of support in a meeting Tuesday.

"Some Turkish politicians inside and outside the coalition government say the allied presence harms Turkey's sovereignty and may encourage Iraqi Kurds to set up an independent state."

"Turkey has been fighting separatist guerrillas among its own estimated 10 million Kurds for the past eight years."



EID GREETINGS: His Majesty King Hussein (see page 3). Mr. Arafat is in Amman recovering from a brain surgery which he underwent Al Adha greetings Thursday, the first day of the feast (see page 3). Mr. Arafat went two weeks ago (Petra photo)

Israelis use helicopter and gunfire against Gazans protesting new rules

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP

(Agencies) — Israeli troops fired in the air and dropped gravel from a helicopter Sunday to disperse protesting Palestinian workers angered at being blocked from crossing to jobs in Israel.

Witnesses said hundreds of Palestinians began hurling stones at soldiers and Israeli cars at about 6 a.m. (0300 GMT) after waiting two or three hours in vain for travel permits.

The workers, held behind a barbed-wire fence near the Erez crossing point, fled to nearby orange groves after the army dispatched a helicopter and paramilitary police fired in the air, Arab witnesses said.

Military sources said a helicopter dropped gravel on the crowd to disperse Palestinians who lacked proper permits. Witnesses said security forces also fired shots and used tear-gas but none of more than 2,000 protesters was hurt.

The stabbing to death of a Tel Aviv area girl last month prompted the army to tighten controls

on the 30,000 Gazans who normally work in Israel, mainly in construction. A Gazan was arrested for the killing.

Palestinians said most demonstrators were angry they did not meet new army regulations they be at least 25 years old. The demonstration took place at a roadblock 400 metres from the Erez checkpoint.

New regulations also require workers to be escorted by their Israeli employers. Last week the army eased even stricter provisions following employer protests.

The army spokesman's office confirmed Sunday's violence and said only "a bit" of gravel was dropped from the helicopter as most demonstrators had dispersed. The new travel and work rules prohibit Palestinians under age 25 from entering the Jewish state and require Israeli employers to pick up their workers at three, army-guarded crossings from the coastal strip.

The army said about 7,600 Gaza workers were permitted to enter Israel on Sunday, compared to the more than 30,000 who crossed daily before the incident.

Gaza buses and taxis are barred from entering the Jewish state, and Gaza residents are banned unless they have special permits.

Also Sunday, the supreme court ruled that the army can demolish the home of Fuad Abdul Atti Amran, 19, of the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza, who is charged in the stabbing case.

The family had appealed the demolition order, saying that Amran lived in a single room in the four-room structure and that destroying the house would deprive 17 others of shelter.

The court panel ruled 2-to-1 that the army could go ahead. The army frequently destroys the homes of Palestinians suspected of anti-Israeli activity. The procedure has been criticised by the United States and international human rights groups as collective punishment.

Basra needs urgent aid — U.N. officials

BAGHDAD (R) — Aid officials say they need more funds and resources to prevent epidemics in southern Iraq's main city, Basra.

"There's a very serious emergency problem there," U.N. official Gualtero Fulcherie, coordinator of the inter-agency humanitarian programme in Iraq, told Reuters after a trip to the south.

"In many ways we've been lucky there haven't been big epidemics," he said.

"You still have entire areas where they have no clean water, and entire areas flooded by raw sewage."

"If you have sewage all around and children play in it, you're likely to have diseases," said Arthur Blisig, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Baghdad, agrees.

"The water situation in our view in Basra is very fragile," he told Reuters.

Basra, with a population of 1.5 million on the Shatt Al Arab waterway, was heavily shelled in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, bombed in the 1991 Gulf war and pillaged in a rebellion after the Gulf war in March 1991.

Repair and improvement of its municipal services is hampered by U.N. trade sanctions under which Iraq exports no oil and is short of funds even for permitted imports.

As in the rest of Iraq, scarcities of food and medical supplies sap the health of the population, leaving residents steadily more vulnerable to disease.

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis give red carpet treatment for Gorbachev

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev received a warm, high-level reception Sunday that went well beyond what Israel normally gives an out-of-office politician.

It reflected the two major gains Israel has made from the changes in the former Soviet Union and its eventual collapse — the demise of Moscow's backing for Arab causes and the influx of Jewish immigrants.

Officials described the visit as "personal," but Mr. Gorbachev and his wife Raisa were greeted by Foreign Minister David Levy.

"We are here on the invitation of your universities, but I express my deep satisfaction that the government of Israel supported these invitations," Mr. Gorbachev told reporters upon landing.

"I won't hide that I sense deep feelings and honour towards this nation," he said.

Israelis credit Mr. Gorbachev with opening the gates of emigration to Jews in the former Soviet Union and restoring diplomatic ties with Israel. No Soviet leader had ever before visited Israel.

His speech was repeatedly interrupted by applause from airport workers, many of them Russian immigrants.

Foreign ministry sources said they are trying to play down the move so as not to offend Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the daily Haaretz reported. No flags were flown to avoid the appearance of a state visit.

"We have been waiting for the day we could receive a great man whose actions and struggle have left their imprint on the entire world arena," Mr. Levy said.

He indicated Israel was willing to enter into cooperative agreements with Russia, noting "the experience we (Israel) have acquired is at the disposal of any nation that needs it."

He said Mr. Gorbachev would find in Israel "many of the ways

of your own country" among Russian Jews who have immigrated here.

"They have given us wisdom and joy of life," said the Moroccan-born foreign minister.

Following a short press conference at the airport, Mr. Gorbachev went to occupied Jerusalem where he was scheduled to meet with President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin, head of the opposition Labour Party.

He is also to receive three honorary doctorates from Bar Ilan University, Ben Gurion University and the Technion, Israel's leading technical institution, where he will be given the \$35,000 Harvey prize for peace.

Mr. Gorbachev's visit had lined all newspapers and dominated their editorials Sunday.

Mr. Gorbachev, in an interview with the daily Yedioth Aharonoth last week, said he hoped his visit would advance peace prospects.

In its editorial, the daily Haaretz warned Israeli leaders "not cave into the temptation to belittle the weight of Gorbachev's pleas by claiming that he is no longer an official figure."

Jews from the Soviet Union began arriving in Israel in large numbers in late 1989 after the Kremlin eased restrictions and Washington imposed a quota on the number it would accept.

Some 400,000 Jews from what was the Soviet Union have since moved to the Jewish state. The rate of arrivals has recently slipped to about 4,000 a month because of economic difficulties in Israel, but even that is more than the number who arrived in most years during the previous decade.

Last October, shortly before he lost power, Mr. Gorbachev also oversaw the resumption of full diplomatic relations with Israel, severed in support of Arab states over the 1967 war.



Her Majesty Queen Noor visits orphans at the SOS Children's Village in the port city of Aqaba (Petra photo)

Queen tours, helps SOS children

AQABA (Petra) — For the feast of Eid Al Adha, Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein visited the SOS Children's Village in the port city of Aqaba and distributed gifts.

The Queen toured the village, which houses orphans, chatting with them and asking them about their general living conditions.

The Noor Al-Hussein Foundation (NHF), which supervises the SOS Children's Villages in Jordan, said that the Aqaba village, established last April, has eight separate homes of children living with foster mothers in a family-like atmosphere. Twenty-three boys and girls between one and seven years old are being cared for but according to NHF officials, 72 children can be housed when all the units in the village are completed.

According to NHF, the Aqaba SOS Village houses orphaned children from the southern regions of Jordan.

His Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor inaugurated Jordan's first SOS Children's Village in 1986 at the town of Tareq, west of Amman. Since then the orphans in the village have enjoyed the care of foster mothers.

About 100 abandoned and destitute children are being housed in nine homes in Tareq by the International SOS Organisation, based in Austria. The children near Tareq receive education in

schools and vocational training at centres nearby.

NHF officials said that attached to the Aqaba SOS Village are a nursery for the village and children from Aqaba city, a store and other basic services, a sports hall, a home for the instructors and a training programme for foster mothers.

The lifeline of Jordan's SOS Children's Villages is the generous donations from the Jordanian community.

The Queen was accompanied on the Aqaba tour by their Royal Highnesses Prince Hamzah, Prince Hashem, Princess Eiman, Princess Raya and Princess Majideh Raad.

23 die during Eid Al Adha holidays

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 6,187 citizens were injured, 23 of whom died, during the Eid Al Adha, which started last Wednesday, according to sources at the Public Security Department (PSD) and Civil Defence Department (CDD).

The University of Jordan Hospital alone reported that it has offered treatment to 632 people while the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid reported that it offered treatment to 2,015 people.

Among those who died, one was a result of a murder while rest of the death cases resulted from road accidents, food poisoning, fires and falls from high places.

Zarqa hospitals reported that 515 citizens were treated, Al Bashir Hospital in Amman said it offered treatment to 700 people and at Salt Hospital, there were 860 cases.

The CDD said that Abdul Muhisen (25), an Egyptian, was shot and killed by another Egyptian identified only as M. A. M. The CDD reported numerous cases of fights, falls and fires.



The Temple of Artemus at Jerash

Jordan, Italy set up archaeological institute

By Mona Ghaneim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Imagine yourself dressed in a toga and sandals, strolling down a Roman colonnaded street, stopping to haggle at one of numerous shops while people ascend and descend the stairs of an overwhelming temple where they pray to a specific God.

Jerash may never look exactly like that again, but a group of Italian archaeologists, in cooperation with the Jordan University and the Department of Antiquities at the Ministry of Tourism, are presently working on a project to restore as much as possible the Sanctuary of Artemus and the main colonnaded street.

Roberto Parapetti, an Italian archaeologist on-site at Jerash, told the Jordan Times that a joint effort of Italians and Jordanians are restoring the Temple of Artemus, the highest point of the city of Jerash, its stairs and the three terraces leading up to it, as well as the colonnaded street below. Along the street, the group is rebuilding the colonnades and reconstructing shops. As for the temple itself, Mr. Parapetti said: "We are reorganizing the access in a more clear way. We are planning to arrange the whole area." He added that Jerash is "very well preserved but a lot of architectural elements are missing."

"We are trying to reconstruct it to what it could have been," Mr. Parapetti pointed out, noting the importance of cooperation between Italy and Jordan in the restoring process.

The Jerash project is just one example of plans in store for the newly-established Jordanian-Italian Institute for Archaeological Sciences in Amman.

Italy and Jordan are hoping to increase ties and benefit in the field of archaeological research through the efforts of the institute, which has been implemented under the Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino (Centro Scavi) of the University of Turin and the University of Jordan, alongside the Department of Antiquities.

An Italian embassy statement said that links of cooperation between Italy and Jordan in the field of archaeology, particularly the preservation and evaluation of cultural heritage, are to be acknowledged and efforts made to encourage more archaeological expeditions.

The Centro Scavi is currently working with the departments of history, archaeology, architecture and sciences of the Jordan University on promoting archaeological study and projects for the future.

A ceremony was held on June 4 in which the premises of the Jordanian-Italian institute was established. The Centro

Scavi now holds the building property of the Schiaparelli Foundation, which was originally the residence of the first doctor of the Italian Hospital in Amman. According to Giovanni Benenati, an Italian embassy official, the centre is now finalising renovations on the building, located next to the Italian Hospital, to facilitate it for seminars, activities, laboratories, libraries, studies and guest-rooms.

"The statute of the institute has been finalised," Mr. Benenati told the Jordan Times. Both Jordanian and Italian authorities are in the process of submitting documents explaining the exact role of the institute. "It's just a question of the bureaucracy now," explained Mr. Benenati in regards to "speeding up" the process so that more tangible cooperative measures may take place.

"This will be completely a joint institute with a council of 50% Italians and 50% Jordanians who will coordinate projects in archaeological sciences," Mr. Benenati said, pointing out that up until now, archaeological centres in Jordan have been mostly one-sided, with Jordan just hosting the foreign excavators.

Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat recently received a donation of equipment for restoration of archaeological sites by the Centro Scavi, only the beginning of what the centre hopes to accomplish through the institute in Amman.

Jordan in Seville a success in many ways

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarah have returned to Amman following a visit to the Seville Universal Expo 1992, in Spain and a private visit to the United Kingdom.

In Seville Prince Hassan opened the Jordanian pavilion and met with King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to discuss Jordanian-Spanish relations and peace in the Middle East.

In London, and elsewhere in the U.K., the Prince and Princess held other meetings that focused on the peace process in the Middle East and other regional and international issues.

In a statement upon his return to Amman last weekend, Prince Hassan expressed delight over Jordan's participation in the Seville Expo noting that it helped to educate Spaniards about Jordan's culture and history.

The Spanish were not the only ones who got a taste of Jordanian heritage, so did thousands of other visitors to Seville, the Crown Prince noted.

In reply to a question, The Crown Prince said that Europeans want to maintain a dialogue with the Arab world which can help Europeans and Arabs to better understand and help each other.

Jordan's week-long cultural activities at the Seville Expo ended last month, but the head of the Jordanian Commission at the Expo, Dr. Mazen Al Armouti, said that there will be another Jordanian pavilion in late September.

According to Dr. Armouti, in September Jordan will display more cultural artifacts, hold seminars and organise performances of folklore.

The Jordanian pavilion last month also had performances of Jordanian music and folklore and an array of archaeological artifacts of the Kingdom.



His Majesty King Hussein performs prayers at Al Hashemeh Mosque to celebrate the feast of Eid Al Adha (Petra photo)

King marks Eid Al Adha

AMMAN — Life in Jordan tomorrow (Tuesday) will return to normal when all government departments, banks and other businesses reopen after a six-day holiday of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day and the Eid Al Adha feast, which marks the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Jordan celebrated the feast with prayers in mosques around the country. The main celebration was held at Al Hashemeh Mosque, built over the tomb of the late Queen Alia where His Majesty King Hussein, members of the royal family and other dignitaries performed prayers.

Mosque preacher Dr. Ahmad Helayel, Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary-general, outlined the Hashemite family's endeavours to protect and safeguard the holy places in Jerusalem, and paid tribute to King Hussein for initiating plans to restore the Dome of the Rock and the mosques and shrines attached to the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad who are buried in the Kingdom.

The preacher urged Arab countries to end their differences and to unite to tackle the common challenges of the Arab world.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the speakers of the upper and lower houses of Parliament, and other Dignitaries were with the King at the mosque for the prayers.

Following the religious ceremonies, King Hussein visited the tombs of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom, and the late King Talal, his father, where he laid wreaths and recited verses from the Holy Koran.

King Hussein met well-wishers at the Raghadan Palace in Amman, exchanging good wishes for the feast of Eid Al Adha: the King also exchanged messages of good wishes with Arab heads of state and leaders of foreign nations.

'Red Gold' puts farmers in the red

By Saad Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Farmers in the fertile Jordan Valley are poised to lose most of their tomato produce due to a market glut coupled with limited export outlets, agricultural sources said here Saturday.

"Potential losses are expected to reach JD 13 million (\$20.5) largely due to the decline of tomato prices below production cost," former Agricultural Minister Mohammad Alawneh said Saturday.

Mr. Alawneh said nearly 277 thousand tonnes of the expected 400 thousand tonnes harvest are "doomed" because of limited consumption outlets.

Out of the 400 thousand tonnes, 48 thousand will go to the local market — at a daily rate of 700 tonnes — whereas 45 thousand are to be sent to Gulf states and Lebanese markets.

"Farmers will find it more feasible to destroy their respective produce rather than sell it at below-the-production-cost price," Mr. Alawneh told the Jordan Times.

The tomato production cost is low, estimated at 41 fils per kilo, one factor that lured farmers into growing tomatoes.

Investment in what farmers call "red gold" is no longer lucrative.

To absorb the excess supply, Mr. Alawneh called on the government to run the two existing tomato-paste plants at full daily capacity. He added that three more plants should be built in the countryside to avoid losing more than 50 per cent of the produce.

Mr. Alawneh also called on an immediate one-year halt to the imports of tomato paste as well as launching a campaign to get Jordanians to eat more fresh tomatoes.

Rakan Fa'our, head of the Jordan Valley Farmers Federation, said the federation's 6,000 members were seeking a government intervention to support their products, which reached record-low prices of several fils per kilogramme.

The price was a record-high JD 1 before the current supply and demand fluctuations.

Mr. Fa'our attributed the excess supply to the fact that produce from three regions in the valley simultaneously hit the market, unlike previous seasons when the yield of each of the three regions grew separately.

The unexpected influx titled supply and demand. In the first quarter of the season, tomato produce had been in short supply, raising prices to JD 1.5 per kilogramme.

However, tomato production increased with the unexpected snow blazes and heavy rains that hit Jordan in the first three months of this year.

The heavy rainfall, according to Mr. Fa'our, desalinated a semi-worn soil and decreased the activity of the white fly, a pest which has killed crops in previous seasons.

Mr. Alawneh estimates that, following the heavy rainfall, Jordan's tomato yield increased from two to 10 tonnes per dunum.

Alarmed by farmers' protests in the valley, the government opened the existing two paste plants but that step fell short of farmers' demand. They want the government to buy their produce for the plants at JD 70 per tonne rather than JD 60 to reduce losses.

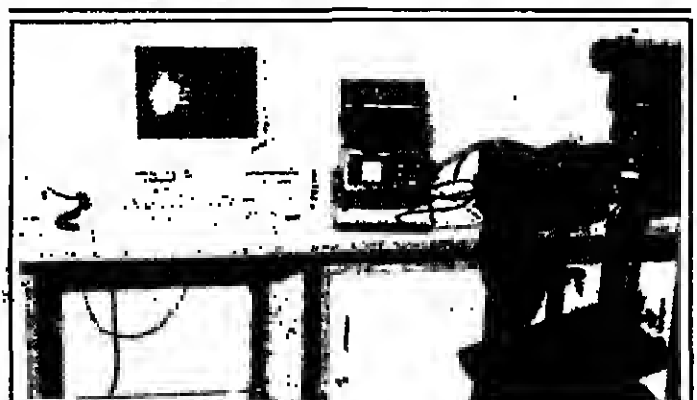
Seeking to end the "tomato crisis" Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has ordered the formation of an eight-member ministerial committee to seek ways of resolving the problem.

Iran to hold industrial products fair in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iran is scheduled to organise a week-long industrial fair in Amman on June 22 to display its national industrial products.

The fair is in implementation of an agreement signed by Jordan and Iran last year, calling for the two countries to organise fairs to orient people on their products and encourage trade.

Iran and Jordan signed a letter of understanding for economic and commercial cooperation in August 1991. The letter signed in Tehran during the last round of talks between the Jordanian minister of industry and trade and his Iranian counterpart provides for an exchange of visits to assess



RSS RECEIVES EQUIPMENT — RSS has recently received new equipment used in detecting infrared radiation and providing thermographic inspection services of measuring the surface temperature of any object from a distance.

This equipment can measure the temperatures of objects ranging between 20 to 1500 degrees centigrade with extreme sensitivity, and produce a detailed and coloured thermogram of the object examined so as to identify the overheated parts in it.

This equipment can be used for several purposes such as identifying the faults in insulating materials installed in buildings, refrigeration systems, boilers, hot water tubes, heat distribution in the walls of power stations and factories, as well as locating the spots of hot water leakage in central heating pipes that are placed under tiles or within walls.

This equipment has been successfully used so far in Jordan in various domains such as corrosion in the solar system panels, measuring the temperature of hot objects at a distance, and locating the spots of hot water leakage in factories, schools, and houses.

A team of RSS experts, supervising the operation of this equipment, is ready to visit any site in Jordan to provide the relevant services.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafe' Nasiri at Abdul Hammed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by 40 Jordanian artists entitled "An Artist and a Painting" at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at the Phoenix Gallery for Experimental Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Patrice Pail at the French Cultural Centre.

Basra needs urgent assistance

(Continued from page 1)

Local officials reported last year that Basra children were dying at about twice the pre-Gulf war rate.

Mr. Fulcherie said aid agencies could not afford many of the projects needed to improve public health in Basra.

"There's always something that can be done, but it requires a tremendous amount of money," he said.

The United Nations Children Fund, (UNICEF) has contributed about \$1 million to Basra water and sanitation works. It supplied 24 chlorinators and chlorine booster pumps, 54 tonnes of chlorine gas, 233 tonnes of alum sulphate and 114.5 tonnes of chlorine powder.

"We have rented 15 water tankers to bring sweet water from non-operating factories to tanks placed on the side of the streets from which family members can fill their cans," a UNICEF official said.

Foreign charities also donated pumps, chlorinators and compressors worth \$200,000 and the Red Cross has installed equipment and provided much-needed spare parts.

"That's quite insufficient," Mr. Fulcherie said. "Quite insufficient."

Before the Gulf war Basra used 77 pumps to get rid of its sewage, he said. "Now, there are 25, and 23 of them were brought by U.N. through UNICEF. The sewage is pumped into the river with all the consequences that you can imagine."

The Iraqi press reported last month that the government was digging a 212 kilometre canal to carry sweet water from the Tigris to "solve Basra's water problem once for all."

But U.N. and private aid officials say massive infrastructure investment is needed in Basra itself.

Measures ease the way for passports and registrations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Registration and Passport Department has initiated several measures to quicken procedures and ease pressure on its employees. The department's moves are in line with the Prime Minister's circular No. 4 of 1992, stressing the importance of streamlining the administration.

Under the new criteria, a citizen can obtain or renew a new passport and a family registration book on the same day. Citizens can also renew their passports through the central post office, but in three days instead of one.

To achieve this, the department has increased its staff and extended its office hours until all transactions are completed, according to Nasouh Muhieddin, the department's general.

The hours have been extended from 12.30 to 14.0 so citizens can pay fees and get their passports or family registration books by the end of the working day.

Muhieddin added that the department also combined the offices of the Amman Passport Department and the accounting and issuance offices to speed up procedures.

Another measure to speed work was initiated last month and provides every citizen with his own national number to be affixed on any document issued by the department. This number, to be kept in a computer, will avoid confusion caused by the repetition or similarity of names appearing on the registry.

The department also formed a three-member inspection team to supervise the progress and performance of the various offices throughout the Kingdom, according to Muhieddin.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King cables Philippines, Russia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable to Philippine President Corazon Aquino, congratulating her in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on her country's independence day. The King wished President Aquino continued good health and happiness and the people of the Philippines further progress and prosperity. The King also sent a cable to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, congratulating him on his country's national day and wished him continued good health and happiness and the Russian people further progress and prosperity.

Prince conveys condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday delegated the director of Zarqa Police Department to convey his condolences to Al Dawoud family over the death of the late Abdul Razzaq Al Dawoud.

UNRWA schools begin holiday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Over 140,000 refugee children attending UNRWA schools began their summer holiday June 8. The 197 schools will remain open so that children may participate in summer clubs during the holiday period. Activities will include scouting, computer training and sports. According to Atiyeh Mahmoud, Jordan Field Education Officer, the number of pupils attending UNRWA schools will increase by about 15,000 when schools restart in August because of the introduction of the 10th grade into the agency's educational curriculum in Jordan.

Pilgrims return to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian pilgrims will return to Jordan during the period of June 15-18 after performing this year's pilgrimage to Mecca, according to Public Security Department sources.

Jordan Times

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Laws and legality

AS PARLIAMENT is about to reconvene in an extraordinary session to deliberate over several draft laws on top of which are the all too important bills on the formation of political parties and freedom of the press, it would be prudent to check whether the drafts being submitted to the House for debate and approval are in harmony with not only the Constitution but also with the international conventions that Jordan had ratified. It would be much easier and simpler to undertake such task now than to wait till the bills have become laws.

The Law Committee of the Lower House should be well aware of the provisions of the various conventions that Jordan is obligated to honour, and its members should cross-check them with the provisions of the draft laws that are on the agenda of Parliament. On top of the list of the United Nations instruments that our parliamentarians ought to busy themselves with reading and understanding are of course the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). These two covenants are the umbrella bodies of U.N. laws that govern practically all aspects of domestic and international practices. There are of course other auxiliary conventions that amplify even further some of the features of these two covenants; they therefore also call for close scrutiny. The conventions on the right of the child and the one against torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment are samples of such more elaborate international instruments that Jordanian legislators need to be cognizant of with a view to introducing their guidelines into the new laws that are being contemplated. Such an early effort would save the government much embarrassment at a later stage when it is asked by the various treaty bodies formed to monitor their application and observance to account for any discrepancies that may exist between Jordanian laws and the international standards set by these basic international human rights treaties. It will be remembered that Jordan submits periodic reports to many U.N. fora on its strict observance and respect for the conventions that it had signed and ratified. True that the government has yet to take these periodic reviews seriously enough, but this is no excuse for not doing so in the future, especially now when the country is blessed with an operational democracy and parliamentary political life. After all, Jordan always prides itself as among the vanguard of developing countries that adhere to high standards in dealing with human beings and is indeed on the threshold of joining the club of developed countries on such topics as human rights and public freedoms. There is in fact no better time and place to begin this new Jordanian effort than at the upcoming extraordinary session of Parliament, particularly since the proposed legislation that awaits adoption is very important and sensitive as well as crucial to the success of our democratisation process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOR JORDAN, Eid Al Adha is a reminder of the holy places in Arab Jerusalem and a duty to restore the Dome of the Rock and other shrines, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. With the feast of sacrifice, the Jordanian citizens remember the need to offer more efforts and more sacrifice towards upholding the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and to protect the holy shrines, the paper added. At the same time, while the Jordanian citizens continue to enjoy the atmosphere of democracy, which is either shunned or feared by other Arabs, they should not lose faith but should rather pursue efforts towards building up a new reality and a new future for the coming generations, said the paper. The feast for Jordanians is a renewal of determination to rid themselves of the negative aspects that have been marring Arab character for so long and they consider the holy occasion as a call by Al Aqsa Mosque to rally to its restoration and to work diligently to liberate the holy land, added the paper. Eid Al Adha has found the Jordanian people more determined to exert additional efforts and more firm in their position vis-a-vis the challenges posed to the nation the paper pointed out. It said that on the occasion of the holy feast, Jordanians tend to forget the hostile propaganda campaigns launched against them by the other Arabs and they only remember King Hussein's words that the Arab nation is now at the threshold of a real revolution that can pave the way for a brighter future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily focuses attention on the low-level services at Um Nowara housing estate, which is located in Al Naser district, within the Greater Amman Region. Tarq Momani drew the concerned authorities' attention to the need to provide transport facilities for the 600 families living on this estate built by the Housing Corporation. The writer said that breadwinners of this low-income group find it impossible to make it to work and back daily due to the lack of regular transport facilities, on the one hand, and because taxi drivers refuse to travel to what they believe to be an outlying region, on the other. The writer urged the Amman Municipality and the Ministry of Transport to join forces in providing means of regular transport for these people. He also called attention to the need for the Telecommunications Corporation to install telephone lines to make life easier for the 600 families. He said that being an estate built by a government agency, all the vital services should be made available. The writer said that the concerned government authorities should find a way to alleviate the daily ordeal of the 600 families of Um Nowara.

Weekly Political Pulse

From gossip to real change

THERE is much talk these days about an imminent Cabinet reshuffle and the reappearance of familiar prominent faces at the palace level. Whether these projected changes are true or not, the fact that Jordanians keep talking about them suggests that there is some popular hunger for political gossip to fill the vacuum in the domestic political scene. People appear to be split over whether the country needs new faces or old proven personalities to encounter the events of the future. On the internal level, the Kingdom is bracing itself for new elections next year that may shape the future of the country for many years to come. On the regional and international levels, the Kingdom is preparing itself for the next rounds of bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations which also may shape the future of the country for generations to come. Yet what criteria our policy makers apply in affecting such changes to deal with the profound domestic and foreign issues awaiting the country is something that still baffles many Jordanians.

There appears to be a familiar pattern in realising the periodic changes in government bordering on becoming conventional. The question is whether time has arrived for a gradual break from the time-honoured traditions in such matters that transcend the appointment of a few select parliamentarians in the Cabinet. If the office of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan can serve as a model for all the key centres of power in government, then indeed the government would be on the threshold of fundamental changes that go to the heart of the matter. One cannot but be impressed with the way Prince Hassan operates and conducts his

office. It is a truly contemporary way to conducting high public office that is reminiscent of the advanced technological manner applied in the developed countries. Not only is the office of the Crown Prince well staffed with "experts" in almost every subject that could occur to one's mind, it is also predicated on the assumption that there is some sort of kitchen cabinet that meets periodically, if not daily, to go over the various issues that are high on the agenda of the Kingdom.

Among the impressive features of the office of the Crown Prince is the continued presence of eminent Jordanian women among his staff. The women in Jordan can never rest assured of their equality until and unless they see more affirmative action that aims to recruit more and more qualified women in various sectors of government. Why there are no women Cabinet ministers or women ambassadors is something that will always cast a shadow of doubt about the country's sincerity in achieving true and effective equality between the sexes in the Kingdom of Jordan.

At the heart of such concerns is the manner the government manages its manpower recruitment. The best way to describe it is that it is traditional, routine and highly personalised. It seems that everybody wants to have people around them that make them comfortable and at ease. Not that qualification is not relevant or necessary. Far from it. It is obviously a basic sine qua non in modern management to have personnel that are harmonious with one another in order to enhance productivity and

communication. But to rest the case of management on such grounds alone would also be fatally lacking and tragically deficient. That is why everything seems to change for the better in Jordan except the manning of public office where there is a growing consensus that it has deteriorated to new low levels, never experienced before in the Kingdom.

If this analysis can be documented and confirmed by a select committee, then there would be an urgent call for the appointment of a special high level official at the prime minister's office which is truly objective and well-versed in modern management and the recruitment of qualified personnel with a view to assisting the prime minister in his choice of personnel. There is no way that Jordan can really transform to a modern state as long as its ways of recruitment of people to man the various governmental machineries are so archaic, temperamental and grossly personalised.

Perhaps the impending new changes in government, whether at the Cabinet level or at lower levels of the executive branch of government, would truly usher in the spirit of new Jordan that His Majesty King Hussein has talked about in his address to the nation more than a week ago. That Royal speech was full of challenges and new ideas that deserve more than transient hand clapping. The words of the King need a real follow up to abort all attempts to reduce it to mere rhetoric. The prime minister's office is the best place to translate the Monarch's historic progressive concepts into realities.

Peace talks have taken the Arab cause 'precious little' steps forward, helped change old American perceptions

By Ali H. Abunimah

Before too long the world will mark the first anniversary of the current Middle East peace talks that began in Madrid. No doubt many people will look back at the many rounds of talks which have been held and conclude that precious little has been gained.

There is an understandable frustration with Israeli intransigence and consistent refusal to yield even the tiniest concession in response to Arab and Palestinian initiatives.

Palestinians living under Israeli occupation have found that the peace process has not provided any material relief to the hardships and deprivations they are suffering. Their loved ones still languish in Israeli prison camps, and the presence of Israeli troops in every aspect of Palestinian life is a powerful reminder that the cherished dream of self-determination is still a long way off.

Even the staunchest supporters of the peace talks might be tempted to throw in the towel and conclude that the Madrid process has led to a dead end. If anyone is

expecting early concessions from Israel, on the fundamental question of land, then indeed they are waiting in vain.

So does this mean that the current peace process should be abandoned?

Aside from the disappointing aspects, we must not forget that the peace process has yielded substantial gains on several vital fronts.

To anyone who has spent the past year observing attitudes in America, these gains are unmistakable.

First of all, the dignity and justice of the Arab and Palestinian cause are not universally assumed in America, as they are by us. The Arabs as a whole have failed in the past to persuasively press their case amongst world opinion.

The good faith with which the Palestinians have come to negotiate with Israel, and the dignity and conviction with which they have presented their demands have reawakened (or perhaps just awakened) American public opinion to the justice of the Palestinian cause.

A new and eloquent generation of Palestinians has struck a chord

with ordinary Americans and made many of them understand the true nature of the Palestinian cause. It is a struggle for the same rights that all Americans enjoy under the U.S. constitution. That is something that has never been explained to the American people, who always viewed Palestinian demands in a negative way, in years past.

Second, many of Israel's strongest supporters in the U.S. Congress and media always told their people that it was the Palestinians who did not want to talk to Israel, who did not want to make peace. Now, however, Israeli intransigence has exposed that as a shabby deception. It is the Israelis who refuse to get serious about the negotiations.

The fine words to the contrary, of the well-groomed Israeli spokespersons, such as Benjamin Netanyahu, sound meaningless when pictures of new Israeli settlements in the West Bank appear on television screens and the list of Palestinian casualties continues to grow. The American people can now see who is really setting up the road-blocks to peace.

So why should we care how opinion is changing in America if it offers no relief and no hope to Palestinians?

There is one important reason: Money.

It has always been the greatest grievance of the Arabs that the U.S. unfairly supports Israel, not only with words, but with billions of dollars in military and economic aid that pays for Israel's army of occupation. And because this money has always been unconditional, Israel has been able to oppress and destroy without ever feeling the consequences of its action.

The changing perceptions of the American people regarding the Palestinians and the Israelis, brought about by the current peace process, have made an important contribution to correcting this Arab grievance.

For the first time ordinary Americans are questioning the wisdom of pouring billions of dollars into Israel when urgent problems such as homelessness, poverty, illiteracy, lack of basic health-care—all problems associated with the Third World—are becoming ever worse in the United States.

Last March Israel suffered an unprecedented setback when President George Bush finally refused Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees. The U.S. administration attached conditions to the guarantees, for the first time ever. Israel, at last, is becoming accountable for its policies.

In February, I attended the hearings of the U.S. Congress House Foreign Appropriations Subcommittee on the loan guarantees. Although many of the congressmen were staunch pro-Israel supporters, many others had begun to ask questions about aid to Israel that they would have not dared raise even twelve months ago.

I had a chance to talk to the Chairman of the Committee, U.S. Representative David Obey (Democrat of Minnesota), and it was apparent that his critical questioning of the loan guarantees was encouraged by the changing mood of the American people. Americans have been told for decades that meeting Israel's every demand is a matter of life and death. The episode of the loan guarantees demon-

strated that Israel's request can be refused and the sky does not fall down.

We must not underestimate the importance of these factors when we evaluate the peace talks. Only when Israel feels itself under sufficient economic pressure, as a result of losing support through intransigence, will it feel forced to negotiate realistically and make fair compromises in response to just Arab and Palestinian demands.

The people who hold the key are the ordinary American taxpayers who have for so long been misled. We have to show them that sending billions of dollars to Israel is bad for America, which after the riots in Los Angeles needs every penny, and bad for the long-term stability of the Middle East.

So far the peace process has been our most effective way of appealing to them directly and proving that it is us, not Israel, who are ready for peace.

The writer is president of Arab Society of Princeton University. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Nordic women lead fight against European union

By Tony Austin
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Nordic women are in the front lines in the war against closer European union, afraid that the welfare state and their own hard-won rights will suffer in a male-dominated structure.

In Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, women are far more sceptical than men about closer integration in the European Community, which they see as threatening their high level of employment and sexual equality.

"Women fear a welfare backlash if we go into Europe," said Tore Bredal, associate director of Norway's MMI Research Institute. "Rightly or wrongly, they think we would have to adjust to the community's (lower) standards and social rights."

Sweden and Finland have already applied to join Denmark and the other 11 members of the EC. Norway is expected to do so in November.

Sweden, Finland and Norway are members of the European Free Trade Association, which signed a treaty with the EC in May to merge from next January into the world's biggest single market.

Marita Ulvskog, a Swedish Social Democrat who opposes her party's and the present government's policy to join the EC, said: "Women are more active because we have more to lose."

Newspapers in Denmark, which joined the EC in 1973, estimate that as many as 60 per cent of eligible women voted "no" in the June 2 referendum to ratify the Maastricht Treaty.

The overall result was 50.7 per cent against.

The treaty on political and monetary union would force a common foreign policy, introduce a single currency and strengthen central EC institutions at the expense of those in individual countries.

A poll conducted by the Stockholm afternoon newspaper Ex-



The newspaper did not break down the poll results by sex, but said it found more opposition to European union among Swedish women than men.

"Exactly as in Denmark, it is particularly women, both young and old, who are sceptical about European union," the paper said. "In part they suspect the European commitment and Britain are less advanced on (women's) equality."

Women were also worried about the distant prospect of Sweden joining a nuclear-armed European power, Expressen said.

In Finland, Hilikka Pietila, a leader of Finland's non-party alternative to ECEU, said she believed women made up a majority of the growing number of Finns who were doubtful about the EC and European union.

"We are against the ECEU as we see it as patriarchal and undemocratic. It would take away rights that Nordic women have won in past decades, like the nearly 70 per cent of seats women have in the Finnish parliament, and give them to a male-dominated hierarchy," she said.

In Norway, the percentage of women opposed to the European Community has increased over the past 20 years, Mr. Bredal of the MMI said.

As in Sweden, women in Norway occupy two out of three public sector jobs and fear they would be the first to go if the male-dominated bureaucracy in Brussels took over.

Martin Sæter, a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International economic climate, not the

Detritus of empire — 'ancient vendettas exacerbated by poverty'

Following is the editorial that appeared in the last issue of the London-based Middle East International.

The name Beirut has become a convenient shorthand for urban destruction. Some correspondents in Sarajevo, trying to give an impression of the chaos around them, described as being "like Beirut," so, for that matter, did some of those who contemplated the streets of Los Angeles in the last days of April. They were not of course referring to the rioting in Beirut on 6 May which led to the resignation of the Karani government, even though the cost of the damage there, and in Tripoli and Tyre, was estimated at \$25m. The Beirut they had in mind was the city which became a battleground when civil war broke out in 1975 and, even more, the shattered city they had seen on their television screens after it had become the target of Israel's invasion in June 1982, battered with the most modern weapons by land, sea and air.

In the past year many inhabitants of Beirut who fled their homes have returned. In spite of the thousands of lives lost and all the property destroyed, survivors are rebuilding Beirut just as Moscow was rebuilt after 1812 and Berlin after 1945, and as the effort is being made now to rebuild Kuwait and Baghdad. Presumably Sarajevo will eventually revive — but when and at what cost?

Beirut is not the only part of the Middle East to cast its shadow over Europe. As the U.N. and the European Community search desperately for some way to stop the fighting in what used to be Yugoslavia they look for precedents — the peacekeeping forces sent to parts of the Middle East over the past 30 or 40 years, some of them still there, and the multinational force which made up Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. "The Gulf war is not a perfect model for military action in the Balkans," as a columnist in the London Times wrote recently, but he argued that military action might be the

only way to stop the Serbs' encroachments. The financial cost and the risk of escalation would be much smaller than in the Gulf. And, just as everyone was asking in the closing months of 1990, are political and economic sanctions against Serbia going to be enough?

"The idea of a united kingdom of three Slav peoples, Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, echoed the pan-Slav movement which was one of the many nationalisms spawned in the 19th century by a confused reading of history."

Yugoslavia is, or we now have to say was — like the present pattern of the Middle East — a legacy of the post-1918 peace treaties. It too represents the detritus of empire, in its case Hapsburg as well as Ottoman. There was an element of idealism as well as more sordid motives at work among those peace makers. The idea of a united kingdom (as it originally was) of three Slav peoples, Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, echoed the pan-Slav movement which was one of the many nationalisms spawned in the 19th century by a confused reading of history. It found a wide and responsive audience, particularly in Russia — incidentally turning Vronsky back to the

army and from the arms of Anna Karenina.

But pan-Slavism has proved as difficult to sustain in practice as pan-Arabism. And now, as if a world still trying to adjust to the collapse of Ottoman, Hapsburg, British and French empires was not enough, it has to face the superimposed collapse of the Russian empire. Who can say whether the last Russian imperial fling into Afghanistan will in the long run have caused more casualties than the continuing struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan or the simmering disputes between many of the other components of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics?

Not all the current violence can be blamed on badly drawn frontiers by past peace makers. In the Middle East the two countries which have preserved the same names and more or less the same shapes for several thousand years — Egypt and Persia (as it always was until Reza Shah insisted on Iran) have been far from trouble free. True, most of the blood-letting in Iran came from a war forced on it by the next door Iraqi tyrant, but the regime of the mullahs, though now relaxing somewhat, has cost the lives of thousands of men and women whose only crime was real or suspected hostility to religious dogmatism.

Egypt, always conscious of the primacy which history, numbers and achievements give it in the Arab World, is going through a testing period. It aims to recover the full status which it lost after Sadat's separate peace treaty with Israel, and yet to remain a beacon of moderation in the surrounding prejudice, as well as a bridge to Europe and America. It is this background which makes the outbreak of sectarian killings between Muslims and Christians so worrying — ancient vendettas now exacerbated by poverty and unemployment. This comes as a sad mockery at a time when a Copt, elected to the acclaim of all Egyptians to the highest international office, is trying to resolve the devastating outbreak of sectarian slaughter in Europe.

Diester or ecological 'diesel oil'

By Jean Chabrier

Diester is a new kind of petrol developed by the cereal industry research laboratories and the Institut Français du Pétrole (IFP). It is ecological and far less polluting than petrol oil used by a diesel engine and will help to take better care of the planet's environment as well as saving on resources in fossil fuels.

The strength and reliability of diesel engines go without saying. Their fuel only requires relatively simplified refining and so it is cheaper. Compared with petrol engines, diesel engines use 30 per cent less energy and give off a much smaller amount of carbon dioxide and exhaust fumes. They do, however, produce soot.

Research has, for a long time, been carried out to see if this obnoxious engine could run on oil coming from plants, but the results of various experiments were rarely encouraging and, above all, the cost price was exorbitant. The oil shocks and the ever growing needs in sources of energy gave a new boost to research and the objective has now been met with "diester."

"This product is the fruit of five years of work using oil-producing cereals, particularly rape," says J.C. Sabin, the chairman of Oxi-dol (the Interprofessional Office of Oil-producing Plants). Diester is a yellowish product obtained by reaction between an alcohol and a plant oil using the classical reaction of esterification; a tonne of oil put together with 100 kilos of methanol-type alcohol, produces a tonne of ester and 100 kilos of glycerine.

Compared with previous attempts at burning plant oils, diester is chemically different. While the chain of fatty acids in oil-producing plants immediately dirties the injectors by producing deposits of carbon, the addition of alcohol turns the oil into ester. Its physical properties are very close to those of diesel oil with a density of 0.88, a viscosity of

7.52, a cetane index of 48.7 and an inflammation index of 49/50.

Considerable advantages

On a practical level, over 18 months, about 50 vehicles of various kinds have done a million kilometres either running on pure diester, or diester combined with 20 per cent to 50 per cent diesel oil. IFP's tests have shown no significant difference either in use or in wear and tear.

However, enormous advantages have been noted. Owing to

the carbon dioxide gas in the air to make oil. By burning diester in its engine, a car only releases the same carbon dioxide gas produced by the plant, and this, at the same time, suppresses any incidence on the so-called "green-house effect," threatening the balance of our planet which is seriously compromised by the 5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide gas produced every year. The last point is that this car fuel releases 50 per cent fewer particles of various kinds than traditional diesel oil.

In the medium term, there are plans for a production unit of 1 million tonnes of ecological energy, which is, indeed, only a small amount compared with the 60 million tonnes of crude oil consumed a year.

It would, however, be a start which, together with the other source of ecological energy, bio-ethanol, would contribute to reducing atmospheric pollution.

This beginning could rapidly develop. The European Commis-



Thanks to diester — the 'green gas' — the diesel engine has a bright future (Photo Roy Explorer)

its plant origin, diester contains oxygen which improves combustion and thereby reduces the soot released into the atmosphere, by half.

Oil-producing plants also use

in the present state of affairs, the cost price in the pilot plant of Robbe, near Compiègne, is less than 3 dollars a litre, whereas that of diesel oil (taking fluctuations in the rate into consideration) is approximately 2 dollars a litre,

excluding taxation. It is thus a government problem as the price of diester, just like with any manufactured product, includes a whole series of taxes of various kinds. However, measures have now been taken and, from 1992, all taxes have been removed on this product.

Diester has been the subject of such a lot of interest that plans have already been made to build an industrial production unit for 25,000 tonnes a year, also near Compiègne. This diester is intended for certain large towns (Rouen, Clermont Ferrand, etc.) and for public transport in the Paris area which is, at present, undergoing a trial run.

sion in Brussels recently took note of the facts and took up the cause of bio-fuel (ethanol and diester) and proposed that all the member states cut down taxes by 90 per cent. Indeed, the commission recalls that it was in this way that it managed to impose unleaded petrol in 1987. It apparently hopes to repeat its success with agricultural, non-polluting hopes to repeat its success with agricultural, non-polluting car fuel, particularly diester. For that, it has two good reasons: today the consumption of diesel oil is higher than that of petrol, and secondly, there are 4 million hectares of farmland which are being left fallow to meet the demands of the Common Agricultural Policy aimed at limiting agricultural overproduction and this could be used for growing rape from which diester is made as there is nothing to prevent its use for crops having an industrial purpose — L'Actualité En France.

New Malaysian investment rules anger foreigners

By Ho Kay Tat

Renter

KUALA LUMPUR — Proposed new investment rules to give ethnic Malays a larger share of the economy have come under fire for being intrusive and giving sweeping powers to a government regulatory body.

"It looks like taking about 10 steps backwards," said an industry source who has seen the draft guidelines.

"If the guidelines are seen, foreign investments in Malaysia will come to a halt," said a foreign businessman.

Copies of the confidential guidelines drawn up by the foreign investment committee (FIC) have been circulated to several trade and professional bodies, industry sources said.

Groups such as the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Public Listed Companies have conveyed their concern to the government, sources said.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz has said the guidelines were only a draft and changes could be made based on feedback by the private sector.

The FIC was formed in 1974 to implement the 1971-1990 new economic policy which sought to give Bumiputras, mostly ethnic Malays, a 30 per cent stake in the Chinese-dominated economy following bloody Malay-Chinese riots in 1969.

Bumiputras' stake in the economy at end-1990 was 19 per cent, still below the 30 per cent target. Bumiputras comprise about half of Malaysia's population of 18 million.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad last year unveiled the 1991-2000 National Development

Policy (NDP) to replace the previous policy. Foreign investors welcomed it as more liberal.

The NDP said that while the 30 per cent target remained, no time would be set for achieving it.

Mahathir had also said: "As there has already been substantial progress under the NEP in achieving the objectives of eradicating poverty and restructuring society, there will be less need for government intervention."

Of the new investment rules, the foreign businessman said: "We think the whole document should be scrapped... the whole draft is at variance with the NDP."

Analysts found it ironic that while Mr. Mahathir had promised a more hands-off government policy, the FIC was proposing to extend its powers to overseeing ownership of gold courses.

"The guidelines are certainly more intrusive than under the NEP," said a banker. "It has created a lot of uncertainty."

A major concern is a rule giving the FIC power to ask public and private firms to restructure by selling a 30 per cent share to Bumiputras, even if they do not undertake transactions which require FIC consent.

Affected are firms "which have achieved tremendous growth" and also property developers and oil palm mills. Previously, the FIC only intervened in the case of firms seeking to buy or sell shares or assets involving foreigners.

Businessmen are confident the guidelines will be revised. "I think the government will make some changes," said an official.

Malaysia's economy has boomed since 1988 on the back of foreign investments which surged after the government eased restrictions and introduced incentives to boost manufacturing and help the country out of the 1985-86 recession.

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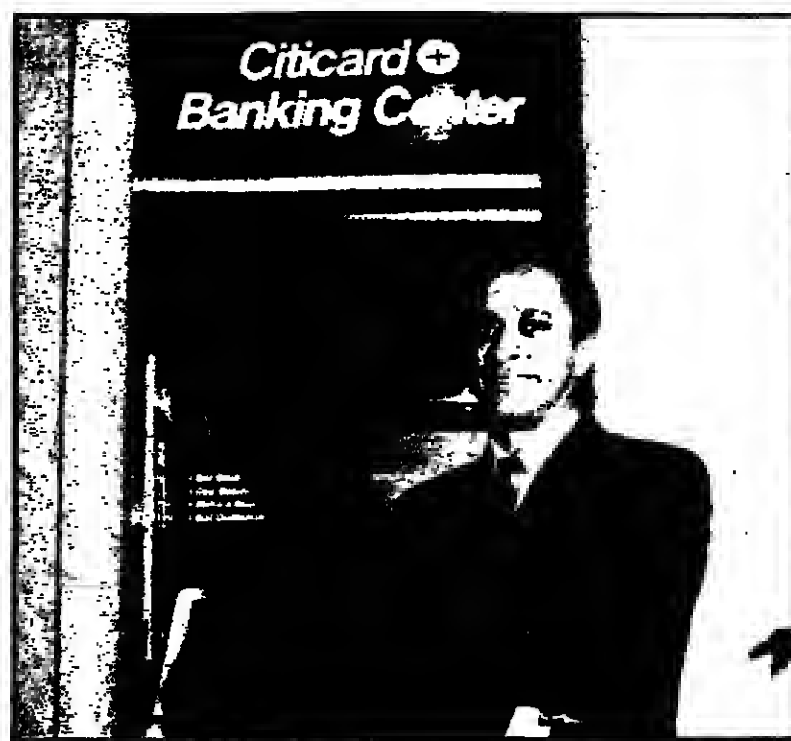
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Germany ponders future without Voeller

NORRKPING, Sweden (AP) — World champion Germany sought to regroup Saturday after a narrow escape against the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the loss of top striker Rudi Voeller.

Voeller broke his left arm in a 1-1 draw against the CIS team Friday and will miss the rest of the European championship.

"It hit us, it hurts to lose Rudi Voeller," German coach Berti Vogts said.

"But we have to find an alternative. I remain optimistic," said Vogts, whose proclaimed goal before the tournament was to reach at least the semifinals.

Immediately after Friday's game and Germany's last-minute lucky escape on a free-kick goal by Thomas Haessler, team officials said Voeller would stay with the team.

EURO '92

But on Saturday, Voeller flew to Frankfurt to have surgery. Team officials said he may return to Sweden if Germany advances to the semifinals to offer moral support.

The 32-year-old striker has 44 goals for Germany in 83 international matches. The injury will sideline Voeller for six weeks, raising questions about his future.

"I'll think about that later. I don't want to say anything about it today," said Voeller, who was Germany's captain at the championship.

After five years in Italy, Voeller reportedly was on the verge of moving from Roma to French champion Olympique Marseille. It remains to be seen whether the injury will jeopardize the trans-



Rudi Voeller

Voeller's injury was the second major blow to hit Germany. The regular captain, World Cup midfielder Lothar Matthäus, is recovering from knee surgery and was not available for the tournament.

"First Matthäus, then Voeller — that's as if the Netherlands had to give up Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten," Vogts lamented.

"But we must put the past behind us and look ahead," he said.

Germany sorely missed the explosive midfield talent of Matthäus against a well-organized CIS team that cleverly exploited Ger-

many's vulnerability to fast counter-attacks.

The world champion fell behind on a 63rd-minute penalty by Igor Dobrovolski and appeared headed for a stunning loss.

But to their credit, the Germans displayed their trademark fighting spirit and their desperate efforts paid off when Haessler scored with less than a minute to play.

"I have to be satisfied with our performance in the second half," Vogts said. "Our game was better then, we can build on that. But it was an act of God that we managed to clinch a draw."

Vogts appointed veteran defender Andreas Brehme as the

new captain. Brehme scored the penalty goal that gave Germany a 1-0 victory over Argentina in the 1990 World Cup final. After the tournament, Brehme is set to leave Inter Milan for a Spanish team that he has refused to name.

Brehme said Germany now had to regain the respect of its opponents.

"In the past, our opponents feared us. We have to get to that level again."

Germany, which is seeking to become the first World Cup holder to add the European title in successive tournaments, next plays Scotland Monday. Scotland lost 1-0 defending champion Netherlands Friday.

English soccer fans rampage in Sweden

MALMO (R) — Scores of English soccer fans embarked on an orgy of destruction early Sunday in the first outbreak of hooliganism at the European championships.

Only about 200 fans were involved in the rampage, but Swedish police were heavily outnumbered and at one stage withdrew from Malmo's main square where the trouble flared around a beer tent.

Fans shouting "kill the bill (police)" charged down a main shopping street smashing windows, wrecking cars and chasing policemen.

Eye-witnesses saw one policeman brought to the ground by about a dozen fans and beaten with his own truncheon. There were no immediate arrests and no apparent serious injuries.

About 2,000 English fans are in

Malmo to follow the England team in the eight-nation soccer finals.

Until early Sunday police had lauded the success of their "security with a smile" campaign to keep England's notorious hooligans in line. They have laid on entertainment and weak beer has been sold from special tents. The trouble flared just after midnight when two English fans climbed on to the roof of the tent in the main square.

About 20 police with riot helmets and dogs moved in to try to get the fans down and the crowd responded violently.

About 10 mounted policemen with long truncheons were brought in but withdrew after fans attacked them from all sides with bottles, cans, plastic tables and chairs, and bicycles.

The Dutch preparing to reserve their place in the semifinals

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — The Dutch defending champions will seal a place in the European championship semifinals if they beat the injury-hit Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Monday.

The Dutch lead Group Two after becoming the only team in the competition to win their opening game. They scored an unconvincing 1-0 win over outsiders Scotland Friday.

The CIS, playing their first and last major tournament in place of the former Soviet Union, proved political upheaval has not harmed the quality of their soccer when they came within seconds of beating world champions Germany Friday.

But the effort put into the 1-1 draw against Germany has taken its toll on the CIS who have injury worries over a number of key players.

Coach Anatoly Byshovets said experienced defender Oleg Kuznetsov, midfielder Igor Shalimov and strikers Igor Dogrovolski and Vladimir Lyutyn had all picked up knocks which could rule them out of the game with the Dutch.

"The chances for all four are very slim. It is all oozing in the hands of the doctor," Byshovets said.

He said Shalimov and Lyutyn had both aggravated matters by playing on when injured.

Veteran midfielder Sergei Aleinikov and striker Sergei Yuran are also battling to shake off injuries which ruled them out of the German game.

The fitness problems have made it even harder for Byshovets to stitch together a team out of a squad drawn from clubs in several different countries across Europe.

The Dutch appear in much better shape with their main injury worry centered on tough midfielder Jan Wouters. He came off

against Scotland after taking a kick on an old ankle injury.

Ajax Amsterdam's Wim Jonk is his most likely replacement.

The tie is sure to evoke happy memories for the Dutch as eight of their probable team played in the side which beat the Soviet Union 2-0 in Munich four years ago to clinch the European title.

The talented young CIS squad contains only three survivors from that era — Kuznetsov, Aleinikov and Alexei Mikhailichenko. The rugged Kuznetsov missed the Munich final through suspension but the other two played.

Dutch coach Rinus Michels hopes his highly gifted team will grow in confidence and give the tournament the injection of class it sorely needs.

They began brightly against the Scots but lost their way after failing to convert a number of first half chances. Young striker Dennis Bergkamp finally got them out from under of trouble with the winner just 15 minutes from the end.

"We needed a win in the first game for the spirit of the team," Michels said.

"I hope we can now raise our game back to the level we showed in that first half against the Scots."

Probable teams: Netherlands — Hans van Breukelen, Berry van Aerle, Ronald Koeman, Adri van Tiggelen, Frank Rijkaard, Rens Veenendaal, Dennis Bergkamp, Rob Witschge, Marco van Basten, Bryan Roy.

CIS — Dmitry Karin, Andrei Chernyshev, Oleg Kuznetsov, Aleinikov, Vladimir Lyutyn, Igor Shalimov, Igor Korneev, Igor Odnopko, Igor Kolyanov, Igor Dobrovolski, Igor Korneev.

Referee — Peter Mikkelsen (Denmark).

Chicago Bulls bench a key to victories

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan sprained his ankle midway through the second quarter. The Chicago Bulls scored on their next two possessions, once by sub Cliff Levingston, to maintain control of the game.

Jordan committed his fourth foul and went to the bench late in the third period. Reserve Scott Williams made two free throws and Levingston tipped in a missed shot, thwarting a Portland rally.

Jordan picked up his fifth foul with 8:52 to play. His backup, Bobby Hansen, made the Bulls' next basket to silence the Memorial Coliseum crowd. Chicago's next six points were shared by subs B.J. Armstrong and Stacey King and the Bulls went on to beat the Trail Blazers Friday in game 5 of the NBA finals.

"I wasn't tired," Jordan said after he scored 46 points and helped the Bulls take a 3-2 series lead. "Other guys made contributions and that saved a lot of energy. The team effort we got, gave me more energy."

Chicago can wrap up its second successive title Sunday at Chicago Stadium. The Bulls' bench, supposedly inferior to Portland's, has been a key.

"They have four players off the bench," Blazers assistant coach Jack Scholow said. "At this juncture, they're deeper team than us."

Scholow's compliment didn't go far enough, because the Bulls have gotten superb play from five bench players this series — Williams, King and Levingston in the frontcourt — Hansen and Armstrong in the backcourt.

"They're making the plays," Cliff Robinson said.

Robinson and Ainge have been the only Portland backups to

make an impact.

"I don't think their guys have outplayed us," Robinson said. "They're just getting more of a chance."

Williams, especially, has been impressive. He's also been one of the Bulls' biggest surprises. Undrafted after finishing his eligibility at North Carolina in 1990, the 6-foot-10 center has become an effective backup for Bill Cartwright.

Coach Phil Jackson began increasing Williams' playing time late in the season and hasn't been afraid to use him at key times in the playoffs.

"He got confidence in me during the New York series, going out and banging those bodies and controlling people," said Williams, who had seven points, four rebounds and three assists in 23 minutes Friday.

"He's one guy we've felt has been very underrated for them," Scholow said.

When Williams plays well, he gives the Bulls the same kind of burst that Robinson gives Portland — though Robinson only grudgingly praises his foe.

"I guess he does give them a lift. He's a good rebounder and plays hard," said Robinson, who has outscored Williams 52-29 but has been outrebounded 29-17.

"But don't you go comparing Scott Williams to me. No way. Don't do it."

Ok, Cliff. But unless your team makes one of the most incredible comebacks in sports history, you might not want to compare your naked fingers to Williams' adorned digits.

"I've been here two years and I'm trying to get two rings," Williams said. "Who could ask for more?"

Matsuoka shocks Edberg in Queen's Club semifinals

LONDON (AP) — Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan, ranked No. 81 in the world, stunned top-seeded Stefan Edberg 1-6, 7-6, (8-6), 10-8 Saturday to reach the final of the Queen's Club grass-court tournament.

Matsuoka saved six match points — two in the tiebreaker and four at 5-6 in the third set — en route to the biggest victory of his unheralded six-year career.

The 24-year-old Tokyo native fell onto his back and rolled on the grass in exultation after Edberg hit a forehand scissor return loop to end the 3-hour, 13-minute match.

In the final, Matsuoka will meet the winner of the match between seventh-seeded Brad Gilbert of the United States and No. 12 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

Matsuoka produced a powerful display of serve-and-volley tennis to beat Edberg at his own game.

"I don't know how I did it and I don't what happened right now," said Matsuoka, who served 12 aces and 10 double faults.

"My coach told me not to think about (the fact) I was playing Stefan Edberg. If I had thought that, I would have played a good match but I wouldn't believe that I could win. He's a big hero to me and everyone in Japan and despite this result he will be a bigger hero than me."

Edberg held his first two match points at 6-4 in the second-set tiebreaker, but Matsuoka won four straight points to level the match.

Both players had break point opportunities in the final set. At 4-4, Matsuoka held two on Edberg's serve but the Swede lifted his game to hold.

The match appeared to turn in the 12th game. With Edberg leading 6-5, Matsuoka served three double faults and survived four more match points and five deuces before holding serve to level at 6-6.

"The more opportunities I had to win the match the more difficult it seemed to get," said Edberg. "I had my chances and I blew it."

The match then went with serve until the 17th game when Matsuoka got the decisive break. After Edberg served his fifth double fault at deuce, Matsuoka ripped a backhand cross-court winner to go up 9-8.

Serving for the match, Matsuoka fell behind 15-40 but saved the two break points and went on to reach match point. Edberg saved that one with a running cross-court forehand pass. On the second match point, Edberg's forehand return sailed long.

"We had his chance after breaking my serve and he took it," Edberg said.

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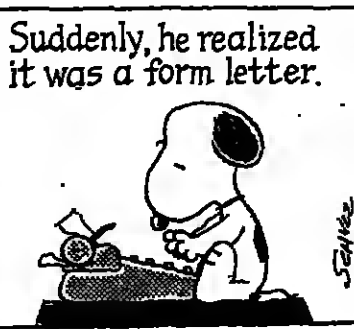
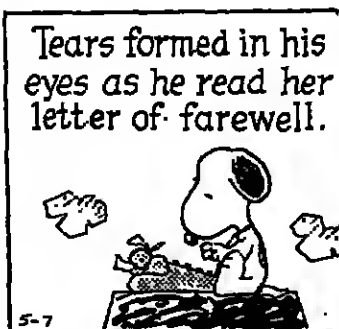
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"We had his chance after breaking my serve and he took it," Edberg said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 15, 1992
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Precision in what you say or do is the keynote to the success you can enjoy today as the Moon trines both Mars and Jupiter paving the way to total receptivity with close associates and personal partners.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a day when it may seem difficult to get your creative ideas before those able to give them a push forward but don't let down in your efforts to do so.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make sure you spend and day thinking about and/or doing those things which will increase the harmony at home, tonight do what will please outside associates.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have much ability to get out from under a routine difficulty by showing you can rise above it and tonight be sure to build up the ego a family member.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well the various material matters requiring your attention and you can solve them while tonight enjoy romance with an attractive person.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be just as personal as you like about showing your ability handle personal problems well and tonight get together with some friends or close ship.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get off alone awhile and think in terms of the larger aspect of your ambitions and decide goals while tonight you can visit with interesting personalities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Gain the good will of generous friends now by showing your appreciation for their magnanimity and later you can handle those financial matters.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look for solutions to those outside matters requiring your thoughtful attention then be sure that you do think of and settle those personal issues.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to look into all facets of a new enterprise if which you have become interested and get the facts while tonight enjoy romance quiet with attachment.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Whatever promises you have made can be carried out with good results and esprit de corps today but tonight relax with a good long time friend.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to understand what a partner would like you to do then, do it graciously after which you will be able to enjoy a successful bigwig.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your surroundings can be made more operative or attractive today so you are more comfortable there, then tonight you can get off to some new interests.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PUDMY
ANIFT
YINJET
CAPALE

WHAT KIND OF REMARKS DID THE PANCAKE CHEF MAKE?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: "OOO-OOO" ONES

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: JURON FUZZY BUTTON POETIC
Answer: He knows that men don't live by bread alone, so he's learned how to do it to others—BUTTER THEM UP

THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth Witze

ACROSS
1 In the head (10)
5 Stylish (5)
9 Bellow (6)
14 First name in mystery writing (10)
15 Hashana (6)
16 Habitual var. (6)
17 Author Haley (6)
18 Jacob's twin (6)
19 Stairway element (6)
20 Deborah Kerr (6)
23 Understand (6)
24 Take down a (6)
25 Summer sign (6)
28 Burden (6)
31 Sid race (6)
36 N.T. book (6)
38 Study hard for (6)
40 Dunes for one (6)
41 Far from a favorite (6)
44 Tropical resin (6)
45 Gathrie (6)
46 Leg pain (6)
47 Unruffled (6)
49 Neat on high (6)
51 Salamander (6)
52 Schedule abbr. (6)
54 The scales at (6)
56 1773 happening (6)
64 Netherlands city (6)
65 Paracanon (6)
66 Wet behind the (6)
67 Gravelly river (6)
68 Huron's neighbor (6)
69 Material fever (6)
70 Actor Charles (6)
71 Funny fool (6)
72 do well (6)

DOWN
1 Bench (6)
2 Shield border (6)
3 Circus or market (6)
4 Dallas' locale (6)
5 Belfry (6)
6 Dan Blocker role (6)
7 Eng. exclamation (6)
8 Gullible one (6)
9 Harren (6)
10 Pined amount (6)
11 Stampede (6)
12 Writer Zane (6)
13 Bear's adversary (6)
21 Modern prof. (6)
22 Footlike organ (6)
25 Country roads (6)
26 Gallo school (6)
27 Milk tin (6)
29 Major (6)
30 Certain bones (6)
32 Sandy's comments (6)
33 Filter of toughness (6)
34 "by land" (6)
35 Intended (6)
37 A few (6)
38 Stucco one (6)
42 Adolescent age (6)
43 Carried one's canoe (6)
48 Ita's command (6)
50 Bark (6)
53 Wrath (6)
56 Hymn of thanksgiving (6)
58 Gala event (6)
57 S-shaped arch (6)
59 Confident (6)
60 Ripped (6)
61 Grahm's wife (6)
62 Storm (6)
63 Loyal (6)
64 Towel word (6)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 3
♥ Q 6
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ J 9 8 5 3

EAST
♠ J 10
♥ J 9 7 5 2
♦ 5 6
♣ A 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 7
♥ A E
♦ K Q J 10
♣ K 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♣

On some hands we might gently chide a declarer or a defender for failing to find the winning play. However, there is no excuse for adopting a line which stands no chance at all.

South's opening was an old-fashioned, strong three no trump showing a balanced 35-27 points. The contract would have been easy had North's only queen not been wasted. Add a low heart to the North or South hand and nine tricks could have been a piece of cake.

West led a heart, perforce won in the closed hand, and declarer had only five fast tricks. In an attempt

to set up more, declarer led the king of diamonds from hand. East grabbed the ace and returned a heart, and declarer had to be content with the eight tricks he had gone to such lengths to establish.

Declarer's play was the height of futility. It should have been obvious that the defenders would remove South's remaining heart stopper as soon as they gained the lead and the defenders would then have at least five tricks to cash before declarer could get a ninth. There was only one hope—at trick two South should have banded out the king of clubs!

Actually, that play had two things going for it. The most likely possibility is that, with five clubs to the jack sitting in dummy, a defender with the ace of clubs, but not the queen as well, might duck the trick to prevent declarer from establishing and running the suit. If that happened, declarer would then revert to diamonds and could no longer be stopped from scoring nine tricks.

The second chance was if the club suit was distributed as above. If West wins the ace, declarer can later take two fineses for West's marked ten of clubs, bringing home the contract by taking three spade tricks, two hearts and four clubs.

Abu Dhabi fund details lending

ABU DHABI (R) — The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development granted Arab countries development loans worth 1.2 billion dirhams (\$328 million) from the end of 1990 until last February, the Emirates News Agency has said.

It said the loans were mostly for agricultural and industrial projects and represented about a fifth of the total of 5.6 billion dirhams (\$1.5 billion) in loans granted to 43 countries since the fund was established in 1975.

During that period 13 Arab countries received 4.5 billion dirhams in loans for 55 joint development projects.

Nineteen African countries received 369 million dirhams for 26 projects. The fund granted 466 million dirhams in loans to eight Asian countries in 11 projects.

Other countries received 288 million dirhams in loans for development projects, the statement said.

Foreign investment in U.S. plunges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign direct investment in the United States plunged 66 per cent to \$22.6 billion last year, the government has reported.

The Commerce Department said that the huge drop from \$65.93 billion in direct investment in 1990 resulted from the sluggish U.S. economy and a marked slowdown in corporate takeovers.

It was the lowest level for foreign direct investment since 1984 and marked the third straight year that foreign investment in the United States has fallen after hitting an all-time high of \$72.69 billion in 1988.

Direct investment had fallen by smaller amounts of 7.4 per cent in 1990 and 2.1 per cent in 1989 after soaring by 80.3 per cent in 1988.

Foreign direct investment is defined by the government as at least 10 per cent ownership of a company by a foreign subsidiary.

During the 1980s the country ran up huge merchandise trade deficits, transferring billions of dollars into the hands of foreigners, who used the money to buy up American companies, office buildings and other real estate.

However, the merchandise trade deficit dipped below the \$100 billion mark for the first time last year and along with that improvement has come a slowdown in direct investment.

Japan held onto the top spot as the country with the largest increase in direct investment in the United States last year, a gain of \$5.07 billion. That was down sharply from Japan's investment increase of \$19.93 billion in 1990.

France was No. 2 last year as French investors made \$4.75 billion in purchases of American companies and real estate followed by Canada with \$2.65 billion in investment purchases.

Meanwhile, a national survey has shown that nearly three out of four affluent Americans have little or no confidence in the government's ability to manage the economy.

The poll of 1,000 Americans with incomes of more than \$40,000 also found 74 per cent think the budget deficit is the principal cause of the nation's economic ills.

Forty-two per cent of those polled rated President Bush's plans to stimulate the economy as poor or very poor, 33 per cent rated them as fair.

Algeria expects above average cereals crop

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria expects to harvest around 3.5 million tonnes of cereals this year, twice the annual average over the past two decades.

Agriculture ministry production director Matallah Sadok said: "It will be a good cereals season above the average of recent years and could reach 3.5 million tonnes."

The figure was a provisional estimate for the harvest which had just begun and exact figures would be available within three weeks, he said.

Last year's crop was a 20-year record 3.62 million tonnes. The annual average harvest over the past two decades was near 1.732 million tonnes.

Liberalisation of production and marketing, and increases in the guaranteed prices for farm produce like wheat, had increased acreages under cultivation this year, he said.

The government has doubled

guaranteed minimum prices for cereals like durum wheat to over 10,000 dinars (\$462) the tonne.

Cereal acreages rose from 3.3 to 3.5 million hectares (\$8.25 to 8.75 million acres) in the current season, comprising 38 per cent of durum wheat, 14 per cent soft wheat, 43 per cent barley and 5 per cent oats, Sadok told Reuters.

A major durum wheat importer, Algeria is seeking foreign aid to help it grow more in the Sahara where irrigated land used for cereals rose from 1,500 to 5,000 hectares (3,750 to 12,500 acres).

Mr. Sadok said some 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres) of arable land was being lost annually due to urban sprawl.

He added that the increases in acreages put down to cereals had apparently compensated for the effects of drought, flooding and frost in western Algeria where crops on some 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) were affected.

Senior Chinese official predicts economic crisis if population nears 1.8b

HONG KONG (R) — China could face economic crisis unless a population explosion running at 16 million a year is curbed, a senior Chinese official has said.

If China is to become a medium-income nation its population, currently 1.14 billion, should never be allowed to exceed 1.6 billion, said Jiang Zhenhua, deputy director of the China family Planning Commission.

The Peking-controlled China News Agency quoted him as saying the consequences would be critical if the population surged past that level.

"China could face economic crisis if its population is allowed to grow to 1.8 billion. Now the warning light of a population crisis is on," he said.

The country has a policy of allowing couples only one child. But it is often not strictly applied in the countryside, especially in remote regions.

The Hong Kong-based China news service quoted Mr. Jiang as saying China was determined to exert tighter control in order to keep the population to 1.3 billion by the end of this century. "It must never exceed 1.6 billion if China wants to reach medium-developed country standards," he said.

Population growth puts a huge strain on the economy, with the endless appetite for new housing taking up land which should be producing food.

Mr. Jiang cited Tibet's population growth.

"Tibet is the only place in China where family planning is not yet introduced and its population has soared 100 per cent — from one million to more than two million — over the past 40 years or so," he said.

Another official quoted in the China Daily said China must

open its domestic market to foreign companies and help them realise their dream of selling to 1.1 billion consumers.

"Foreign investors come here to make money, and the biggest attraction condition here is the market potential," said Tong Yi Zhong, deputy director of the foreign investment division of the Ministry of Foreign Economy Relations and Trade.

"We must open our domestic market and prepare preferential policies for foreign investors to make more money," he said.

Mr. Tong said the myriad regulations and restrictions on foreign businesses should be eased, with the goal of treating foreign companies in the same way as the heavily-protected state-owned industries.

"They (foreign enterprises) deserve the same treatment as state enterprises," Mr. Tong said. "As long as we keep special administrative restrictions on them, we are unfair."

Analysts said Mr. Tong's comments were part of China's efforts to avoid U.S. economic sanctions and to aid Peking's application to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The United States has set a deadline of Oct. 10 for China to open its markets to more imported goods or face punitive sanctions that could cost the country billions of dollars.

Negotiators from both sides reported progress in the latest round of talks held in Peking last month.

While Mr. Tong did not refer directly to imported products, making it easier for foreign-owned joint ventures and fully-owned foreign companies to sell to consumers here would almost certainly result in a rise in imports as well.

Bahrain oil revenues fall sharply

MANAMA (R) — Oil revenues for Bahrain, the smallest Gulf Arab oil producer, fell by 31 per cent to 259 million dinars (\$685 million) during 1991, official figures showed.

A quarterly bulletin published by the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said the value of the island's exports, mainly oil, fell 27 per cent to 334.6 million dinars (\$885 million) from 1990 levels.

Imports edged up by 3.9 million dinars (\$10 million) to 452.3 million dinars (\$12.2 billion). More than a quarter of that amount was spent on crude imports, the bulletin said.

Bahrain produces around 43,000 barrels of oil per day but imports 200,000 b/d from Saudi Arabia to process in its refinery.

The BMA said non-oil exports declined to 75 million dinars (\$198.5 million) from 86.4 million (\$228.6 million) in 1990.

Tunisian business chief wants economy opened up

TUNIS (R) — The chairman of the Tunisian Businessmen's Association has urged the government to open up the economy by lifting exchange controls and speeding up privatisation.

In an interview with Reuters, Hedi Jilani, head of the Tunisian Industrial, Commercial and Handicrafts Union (UTICA), said he approved of the government's plans to liberalise imports but demanded safeguards for local industry.

"I do not doubt for a moment the government's willingness to privatise. But I fear it will be slowed down because of social problems," he said.

Privatisation has been delayed in recent months amid complaints from trade unions who insist that workers of state groups must agree to keep on existing staff despite often excessive staff numbers.

Out of 300 state enterprises, 55 have been sold since 1986, including 25 in 1989, and only six in both 1990 and 1991.

Mr. Jilani said he believed private businessmen do not have enough funds to buy all the enterprises still to be privatised and suggested foreign capital be invited to join partnerships with Tunisians.

"Administrative restrictions on the handling of foreign currency must be lifted," he said, adding that investment codes should be revised to make them more attractive to foreigners.

He suggested foreign investors be given free factory sites and their exported products be exempted from taxation.

Poor nations leave Earth Summit almost empty-handed

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The world's poorest nations left the Earth Summit Sunday with grand declarations ringing in their ears but little new cash to take home to their starving millions.

Delegates from poor African and Asian countries said they had set out clearly the desperate problems facing the planet at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — but world leaders seemed slow to act.

"It's now up to the rich nations to decide whether they want to die or not (from environmental destruction)," said Fazlul Huq, author of Bangladesh's national report to the conference. "We are poor and we're dying anyway."

Rwanda's National Environment Service Director Ernest Rukangira complained: "They talk, they talk and they talk about poverty and then they don't do anything. I don't really see why we are here."

A few countries did pledge

some money towards the summit's twin goals of promoting development and saving the environment but it was not immediately clear how much of the cash was new.

Preliminary estimates by the World Wide Fund for Nature suggested that the total amount of new money pledged in Rio was likely to be around \$2 billion a year.

This compared with an appeal from the conference secretariat for \$70 billion a year to implement green development programmes in the Third World and a more realistic opening request from chief negotiators Brazil for \$7 billion to \$8 billion a year.

"We are going to suffer a lot because we don't have the resources to implement any of the programmes that have been agreed here," said a diplomat from Burkina Faso, one of the world's poorest nations.

Asked why the least developed countries had not pressed harder,

he replied: "How can we demand anything? Let's be honest: If you depend on someone totally you have to tone down your language. You know the power you have over your colonies."

Bangladesh, despite its 100-million-plus population, complained of a similar lack of bargaining power.

"We wish something more could have happened but a small country like ours can't push for anything," Mr. Huq said.

When it came to money, it was the same old story at the conference — developing nations made an opening demand, rich countries refused it and the question was resolved in vague, non-committal diplomatic language.

A key demand of the Group of 77 (G-77), a cluster of 128 developing nations, was that rich countries commit themselves to boosting overseas aid to 0.7 per cent of their gross national product by 2000 — a target indus-

trialised nations have long promised but rarely attained.

After nearly two weeks of wrangling in Rio, came the compromise. Rich countries reaffirmed their commitment to giving 0.7 per cent and "to the extent that they have not yet achieved that target, agree to augment their aid programmes in order to reach that target as soon as possible."

One senior G-77 diplomat, sad and bitter after several marathon late-night negotiating sessions, commented: "We caved in again. I wish we had made a stand."

Others were angry at the concessions extracted from them.

Referring to a European offer to convene a conference on desertification in return for pledges to protect tropical rain forests, a Malaysian delegate said: "They want control over all our forest and they're not even offering money in return — just more pieces of paper."

India hopes to return to high 5-6 per cent growth next year

NEW DELHI (R) — India's economy, bolstered by foreign loans and investment and freed of many government controls, could return to five to six per cent annual growth in the next fiscal year, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has said.

"If we can stabilise our foreign investment capital inflow at \$1 to \$2 billion per annum, our economy (measured as gross domestic product) should grow at the rate of five to six per cent," he told Reuters.

Mr. Singh said he expected foreign investment commitments of \$1 billion in 1992/93 (April/March), against \$500 million last year and less than \$100 million the year before.

"Last year (1991/92) our economy grew by about three per cent per annum. That was the first year of the reforms. This year, at the worst, the same rate will be achieved," said the Oxford-educated former economics professor.

"After the current financial year, if we have successful fiscal consolidation, then our economy would go back to a growth path of the order of five to six per cent," Mr. Singh said.

India's growth rate averaged around 5.5 per cent in the latter half of the 1980s.

Mr. Singh has designed a revolutionary programme of reforms to the state-controlled economy since taking over as India's finance minister last June.

The government has allowed foreigners to take a majority stake in joint ventures, abolished licences on domestic industry, de-controlled trade, made the rupee partly convertible on international markets and started liberalising the nationalised banking system.

"I think the reforms would move at a much faster pace than ever before if we had somewhat larger amounts of foreign exchange to play with and if we had some grand nudge to take care of the balance of payments situation," he said.

India was in the throes of a balance of payments crisis last year when foreign banks stopped new lending in an atmosphere of political uncertainty.

A general election in 1991 brought in the country's fourth government in two years at a time when the crisis in the Gulf had sent oil prices soaring, draining already dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

Today, reserves are up to \$6 billion from less than \$1 billion in July, and India is locked into a painful fiscal reform programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which lent it \$4 billion last year.

Mr. Singh said India's foreign debt "was \$71 to \$73 billion" but was manageable, despite the fact that over two-thirds of the country's new loans were earmarked to pay off old debt.

"It's true, net transfers are very small. A very large part of our (loans) is being used to repay our debt," Mr. Singh said.

"But I think India's dependence on the outside world is pretty small," he added. India's current account deficit is 2.5 per cent of its GDP.

Total debt is less than 25 per cent of GDP. Around 70 per cent of the debt is long-term and only

seven per cent is short-term.

"India's debt structure, I think, is manageable," he said.

Mr. Singh said India needed \$2 billion to \$3 billion in quick-disbursing loans from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF over the next two to three years. "So we are not making exorbitant demands on the international system."

"India can and should sustain a much larger inflow of foreign investment," Mr. Singh said, even above the ambitious \$1 billion to \$2 billion a year he was planning for.

"It is my hope that as the economy liberalises, India will take much larger inflows of direct foreign investment. In fact, most people I have talked to think \$10-15 billion inflow of direct foreign investment for an economy of India's size is not unrealistic," he pointed out.

"I'm not making any plans on that. If they come, so much the better. We will welcome them and we will create facilities for expanding the flow of direct foreign investment," he concluded.

Havana believes it has right plan to survive economic crisis

HAVANA (R) — Increases in Cuba's food production, nickel output and tourism earnings in 1992 indicate the communist government has chosen the right strategy to handle the island out of economic crisis, a senior official said.

Carlos Lage, a close aide to President Fidel Castro, told a news conference these results from the first quarter of the year pointed to what he called "a discreet process of recovery" in some priority economic sectors.

But he added they would only soften and not check the overall contraction of the Cuban economy in 1992.

This would still be the year in which Cuba would feel the biggest impact of the loss of its preferential trade ties with eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Mr. Lage said.

"We have to adapt our economy to a capitalist world and interrelate with that world under the conditions of a blockade," Mr. Lage said, referring to a 30-year-old U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, recently tightened by Washington.

But he stressed that the government's economic strategy, even when it involved seeking profitable partnerships with foreign private investors, would always be subordinate to what he called "our principal objective... maintaining socialism."

"The first priority is to guarantee living conditions for the people," he added, saying the state would maintain basic food sup-

plies, health care and education.

Mr. Lage said that thanks to government moves to concentrate manpower and resources in priority sectors, tourism had grown by 23 per cent in the first three months of 1992 compared to the same period of 1991. Nickel output had increased by 17 per cent and farm production was up by 11 per cent.

These indicators alone were not enough to pull Cuba out of its crisis. "But they do confirm that we've chosen the correct path and they give us confidence that this is the way to tackle the problems and overcome them," Mr. Lage said.

One problem area was the sugar harvest, where the loss of vital supplies, especially oil, from the former Soviet Bloc, meant the strategic industry was operating this year with only 30 per cent of the resources it normally needed.

The 1991-92 harvest had started more than a month late and would have to be continued in June and afterwards, despite the threat of spring rains.

"We will be far off from achieving last year's production, which was 7.6 million tonnes," Mr. Lage said.

He added that Cuba had so far one million tonnes of sugar in 1992 at world market prices and in exchange for oil. This included a limited sugar-for-oil agreement with Russia.

The island was counting on being able to obtain abroad up to six million tonnes of oil in 1992,

less than half the 13 million tonnes it consumed under normal conditions. But there were plans for the economy to cope with less if necessary," Mr. Lage said.

Cuban officials said that a 30-year-old U.S. economic embargo against Cuba has cost the island more than \$20 billion and is blocking Cuban efforts to renegotiate a \$7 billion debt to the West.

The officials, including senior trade ministry and foreign ministry representatives, also accused Washington of trying to stop foreign companies from investing in Cuba and Cuban moves to place new products in world markets.

Cuba's communist government is waging a diplomatic campaign against the U.S. embargo, which the island now feels even more acutely because of the collapse of its preferential trade ties with eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Alberto Betancourt told a news conference in Havana that U.S. curbs on trade, finance and transport relations with the communist-ruled island since 1959 constituted an "illegal spider's web" without precedent in the history of international relations.

Cuba's State Economic Planning Commission estimated the three-decade embargo had cost Cuba more than \$20 billion in lost trade and finances and additional expenses.

Mr. Betancourt said Cuba's convertible currency debt to

Western creditors stood at a little over \$7 billion. Creditors included Japan, France, Spain, Italy, Canada, Argentina and Mexico.

Cuba's attempt to renegotiate the debt and obtain fresh credit since 1982 had been hampered by U.S. pressure and interference in the negotiations, Mr. Betancourt said.

"If it wasn't for the blockade... and U.S. pressure, Cuba could have obtained before, and even now, better conditions to refinance its debt and to gain fresh credit," he added.

Negotiations have been blocked since 1986 because Cuba says it cannot afford to start repayments without first receiving guarantees of fresh money from creditors.

The latest U.S. move to tighten the embargo against Cuba came on April 18, when President George Bush ordered U.S. ports be closed to ships which traded with the island.

Mr. Betancourt said Mr. Bush's government was "the U.S. administration which has most systematically tried to apply the blockade in every detail."

He added the U.S. government was exerting pressure on foreign companies to stop them taking advantage of investment opportunities offered by Cuba.

Washington was also trying to keep Cuban products out of the world's nickel and bio-technology markets, which are already dominated by large U.S. multinationals, he said.

Renault shrugs off Volvo loss

PARIS (R) — French state-controlled vehicle maker Renault has reported an eight-fold increase in first quarter profit that swamped rising outflows to its loss-making Swedish partner A.B. Volvo.

Regie Nationale des Usines Renault said a surge in car sales boosted pre-tax attributable profit to 2.36 billion francs (\$441.4

million) in the first quarter of 1992 from 298 million francs (\$55.75 million) in the corresponding 1991 period.

The first quarter profit figure almost equaled net earnings for all of 1991, which totalled 3.08 billion francs (\$575.7 million), and reflected the firm's continued recovery from the slack period

stretching from late 1990 into 1991.

Renault said a 19.3 per cent

jump in first quarter turnover of 47.73 billion francs was entirely attributable to car business.

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